



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
El Rito Ranger District

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2010 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)

ALAMOSA ALLOTMENT # 00201

Alamosa Livestock Association	Nerio N. & Alice M. Gurule
Alfonso Chacon Jr.	Fidelia Jaramillo
Steve Chavez	The Martinez Family Trust
Anselmo Gallegos	Horacio D., Ronald H., or Martin K. Martinez
Belinda Vasquez & Julian Gallegos	Carlos B. Ortega
Jose E. Gallegos	Manuel Pena
Griego Ranches	Dan Jr. & Albinita G. Rael
Thomas L. Griego	Danny Vigil
Mrs. Tomas Griego	Jose R. Zamora

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT

/s/ <i>Diana M. Trujillo</i>		03/15/2010
District Ranger, El Rito		Date

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION'S (AOI)

INTRODUCTION

This AOI is in reference to the discussion you had with Sandra Imler-Jacquez, Ezequiel Rael, Craig Newman and Diana Trujillo on January 12, 2010. The authorized eartag color is "red".

Table 1- List of Permittees, permitted #s, and season

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Comments
	#	Season	#	Season	
Alamosa Livestock Grazing Association	20 bulls	5/1 – 10/31	20	5/1 – 10/31	
Alfonso Chacon Jr.	82 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	82	5/1 – 10/31	
Steve Chavez	14 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	14	5/1 – 10/31	
Belinda Vasquez & Julian Gallegos	11 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	14	5/1 – 10/31	
Jose E. Gallegos	18 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	0		<i>Permit expired in 2000 and has not been renewed in spite of numerous attempts to contact and resolve</i>
Griego Ranches	67 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	67	5/1 – 10/31	
Thomas L. Griego	65 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	65	5/1 – 10/31	
Mrs. Tomas Griego	10 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	10	5/1 – 10/31	
Nerio N. & Alice M. Gurule	35 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	35	5/1 – 10/31	
Fidelia Jaramillo	9 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	9	5/1 – 10/31	
The Martinez Family Trust	24 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	20	5/1 – 10/31	
Horacio D., Ronald H. or Martin K. Martinez	16 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	16	5/1 – 10/31	
Carlos B. Ortega	51 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	45	5/1 – 10/31	
Manuel Pena	8 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	8	5/1 – 10/31	
Dan Jr. & Albinita G. Rael	4 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	4	5/1 – 10/31	
Danny Vigil	19 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	19	5/1 – 10/31	
Jose R. F. Zamora	7 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	0		<i>Permit has been in non use since 2001. Assigned improvements have not been maintained during this time.</i>
TOTAL	460 Head	5/1-10/31	428	5/1 – 10/31	7% Reduction

Season dates are dependant on range readiness inspections. Dates for range readiness inspections have

been scheduled for April 20, 2010. You are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be departing the El Rito Ranger District at 9:30 am.

Nonuse of a term permit must be requested in written form for all of the permitted numbers (Total Nonuse or part of the permitted numbers Partial Nonuse). Verbal applications will not be accepted.

All permittees must be in good standing with the Association and in compliance with the permit in order to let cattle on Forest Service property.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Alamosa Allotment. The El Rito range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest. A five-day grace period will be allowed for removal of stray(s) permitted cattle from the allotment.

If a permittee elects to request “*total nonuse*” he/she is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements.

A credit/refund application must be completed within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee(s) and approved by the District Ranger.

ROTATION SCHEDULE

Initial distribution of your livestock is tentatively planned as follows (actual dates will be based on range readiness):

Table 2 - Rotation Schedule for Cattle Herd

	05/01 – 06/01
La Madera Pasture	<i>Actual dates dependant on Range Readiness inspection.</i>
Posos/Borracho Pasture	06/01 – 07/31
Alamosa Pasture	08/01 – 09/30
Posos/Borracho Pasture	10/01 – 10/31

FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Forage utilization will be measured in predetermined key areas. We will need your assistance for locating and setting up these key areas. The Forest Service will contact the permittees later in the spring and summer to set these key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Alamosa Allotment. Monitoring will be conducted using Vegetative Utilization Monitoring. Permittees are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made.

Utilization guidelines for the Alamosa Allotment are light to moderate or 20 - 40% use of grazable forage. Utilization will be measured at the end of the growing season in the key areas.

Riparian stubble heights will be maintained at four inches throughout the grazing season. If riparian areas have been grazed down to a four inch stubble height cattle will be rotated to the next pasture or moved home early.

Table 3 - MONITORING RESULTS FROM 2009

Pasture	Species	Utilization Guideline	Actual Utilization
Borracho	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	35%
Borracho	Arizona Fescue	20-40%	55%
Posos	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	78%
Posos	Carex	20-40%	72%

Distribution of livestock needs to improve on the allotment as some areas of the allotment are receiving little use while others are receiving excessive use. At the end of the 2009 grazing season utilization was exceeded in key grazing areas on three of four species that were monitored in the Posos/Borracho pasture. A key grazing area is a portion of rangeland selected because of its location, grazing or browsing value, or use to serve as a monitoring and evaluation point for range condition, trend, or degree of grazing use. Key areas reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the rangeland and guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part. The intent of monitoring in key grazing areas is to maintain good to excellent range conditions in key areas while accommodating the needs of wildlife. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock to achieve a light to moderate grazing intensity of 20-40% by weight of annual available forage in key grazing areas. It will be important in the 2010 grazing season that cattle be rotated on time and distributed evenly to prevent over grazing in these key areas. As discussed in this year's annual operating meeting, proper use of the rotation system and allotment cattle crossing onto adjacent allotments continues to be issue on the Alamosa Allotment. We encourage the permittees to do their best in keeping cattle from moving onto adjacent allotments and from going into the higher pastures early. Rotating cattle out of lower pastures on schedule and movement of all rather than some cattle from pastures as cattle are rotated is needed to ensure proper grazing utilization. Fence maintenance, salt dispersal, range riding and monitoring by the permittees can change utilization for the better. Adjustments in authorized livestock and season of use can be expected if distribution and management of livestock continues to result in excessive utilization.

MONITORING

Monitoring will be conducted using a combination of monitoring techniques including, but not limited to, Parker 3-Step, paired cages, photo points, Rapid Assessment Method, and permittee monitoring. Permittees are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service Range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made. Dates for range readiness inspections have been set for April 20, 2010. Other monitoring dates are tentatively scheduled for June 9, August 12, and October 26, 2010 for "End of Season" monitoring. Monitoring dates are subject to changes due to weather, fire danger, or unforeseen circumstances. Please contact Ezequiel Rael with any questions regarding monitoring. Your participation is welcome and encouraged. We will be departing the El Rito Ranger District at 9:30 am.

Field inspections will be conducted to monitor allowable use, and movement of livestock. Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment

to manage within specified utilization standards. Once allowable use is achieved, livestock must be moved into the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment. The length of season depends on the intensity of management and cooperation between permittees on livestock distribution and moving from pasture to pasture.

If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified stubble heights, then the remaining key areas will also be monitored and the pasture inspected to determine overall use patterns. This information will be used to determine if cattle need to be re-distributed within the pasture or removed from the pasture.

IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

- The following projects are proposed for completion:
- 3 mile fence on Wilson Hill. (Partially completed by RMYC and YCC). Remaining materials are available at the District Office.
- Earthen Dam – Bancos East of Alamosa Drainage (Pending funding.)
- 1.5 mile Allotment Boundary Fence. Materials are available at the District Office.
- Martinez Spring water development.

FENCE MAINTENANCE

Assigned fences and water developments in the “*entry pasture*” must be maintained and determined to be in good functioning condition prior to the entry date. All other pasture fences and waters must be maintained prior to livestock movement into the next scheduled pasture.

An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate.

ALLOTMENT STATUS

At the present time direction for management on the allotment is being documented in the AOIs.

According to the Carson Forest Plan implementation schedule, an Allotment Management Plan update, developed using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, has been scheduled to begin and be completed in 2010.

Open and positive communication is encouraged. Feel free to contact the range personnel if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, on the ground status, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, and possible changes in allotment management.

APPEAL STATEMENT

This AOI is hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90. In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my

decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Kendall Clark, Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, 208 Cruz Alta, Taos, New Mexico 87571, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Diana Trujillo, District Forest Ranger, who was the deciding officer and the address for mailing the appeal copy is P. O. Box 56, El Rito, New Mexico 87530.

I would appreciate if you contact me and together we can try to resolve disagreements before you file any Notice of Appeal. I value your experience and knowledge of the allotment. If we cannot reach an agreement, you may exercise your appeal rights. This will insure that we both understand the reasons for each others position regarding any issues. I look forward to working with you this season. I am confident that together we will work effectively to manage the range resources in a manner that reflects good stewardship for the land and cattle alike.

ACTUAL USE INFORMATION
ALAMOSA ALLOTMENT
2010 GRAZING SEASON

Attachment 1

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on	Date Off	Date on	Date Off	
La Madera	428 Head of cattle	5/1	6/1			
Posos/Borracho	428 Head of cattle	6/2	7/31			
Alamosa	428 Head of cattle	8/1	9/30			
Posos/Borracho	428 Head of cattle	10/1	10/31			

Number of Head counted on: _____.

Number of head lost: _____.

Additional Comments:

Table 1

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

UTILIZATION INFORMATION
ALAMOSA ALLOTMENT
2010 GRAZING SEASON

Attachment 2

Pasture	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
La Madera					
Posos/Borracho					
Alamosa					
Posos/Borracho					

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION ADJUSTMENTS

ALAMOSA ALLOTMENT

2010 GRAZING SEASON

Date	Action Item	Action Taken	Initials

Appendix

Grazing Permittee Instructions for Cattle Operators on El Rito Ranger District

1. Review the term grazing permit and become familiar with the terms and conditions prior to the grazing season.
2. Only livestock branded as shown on your application are permitted to enter the National Forest. The Forest Service (FS) and the permittees will agree to the counting locations, date, and time. Entering the allotment before your authorized entry date is not allowed until livestock are counted.
3. A Crossing Permit is required whenever livestock enter the National Forest. Crossing the District to/from a grazing allotment is only allowed within the authorized season.
4. Livestock found on other unauthorized allotments or in areas without prior authorization will result in the issuance of a Notice of Noncompliance that may impact your term permit.
5. The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) pasture rotation dates are tentative. Therefore, you must consult with the District Office two weeks before the AOI tentative scheduled rotation dates for discussion and approval of the actual move dates and any AOI adjustments.

Management on the Range

1. The management objective is to obtain proper use throughout the grazeable portions of the range according to the management requirements of the Carson Forest plan.
2. Obtaining the best distribution of cattle on mountain ranges is made difficult because of their natural tendency to gather in openings, watering sites, drainages, riparian areas and meadows. Proper use will be determined by the percent of forage used within key area sites. With proper livestock distribution, a uniform pattern of use would occur. Utilization levels would vary between 20% to 40% (percent dry weight) in pasture key areas, and within the overall pasture's pattern of use.
3. Riding, herding and good salting practices will help. Frequent movement of salt within slight to light use areas is required to improve the pattern of use. Cattle should be moved to less utilized areas and heavier use should be avoided in the bottoms/meadows/openings that contain more desirable herbage.
4. When proper use levels are reached within each pasture, livestock grazing must end and livestock must exit. An early allotment exit would result in a partial refund/credit of the grazing payment. The grazing of more than one pasture at a time must be approved by the District Ranger. All cattle on the allotment would be handled as one herd. Moves between pastures may be handled as drifting moves where gates to the next successive pasture may be opened 2 days before the agreed scheduled move date. The exit pasture that the cattle are leaving must be cleaned-out within 3 days after the scheduled date for moving.

Salting

1. Salt must be placed in each pasture prior to cattle entering the pasture. Salt shall be located at least 0.5 miles to 1.0 miles away from streams, springs, earthen dam stock tanks and other

sources of water in order to improve the livestock distribution within the pasture. Salt must be placed to minimize damage to vegetation and soil, within the tree line instead of in the middle of openings, in drainages/riparian or near roadways. Regular salt ground sites must not be established.

Range Improvement Projects

1. Range Improvement Projects assigned in your Term Grazing Permit require annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to placing livestock in the pasture unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before the entry date and interior fences must be maintained before cattle enter the pasture.
2. Acceptable maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent materials. Particular attention, labor and time must be given to gates within the allotment to make certain that they are serviceable and can be opened and closed easily. The FS does not furnish materials or cost-share for maintenance projects.
3. All lay-down fences should be let-down no later than October 20, or as soon as possible after cattle leave the allotment and adjoining allotments.
4. Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger. During the AOI meeting and throughout the year suggestions for proposed projects are accepted.

Special Attention Items

1. Written authorization from the District Ranger is required for vehicle travel in road closure areas. All cross-country travel where allowed must not cause ruts or down-cutting in the soil surface. Cross-country vehicular travel when the ground is wet is prohibited. This written authorization is only for vehicle travel necessary for your livestock operation on your allotment. Prudent use of this authority is asked when and where general public use is concentrated. All permittees are encouraged to stay off roadways closed to vehicular travel during hunting seasons.
2. All temporary camps and corrals made or used by permittees or their riders will be cleaned up (left in a sanitary condition) and all materials/trash will be removed from the sites. Temporary camp/corral locations should be discussed with the FS prior to setting up the camp.
3. Riders will be permitted 4 horses or mules per rider for work within the allotment. No untrained horses, colts or other unrideable stock will be allowed.
4. Please notify the District Ranger with any observations of stray livestock on the National Forest Lands (regardless of the time of year).
5. Move any dead animals to rest no closer than 300 feet from water or roadways.

Report wildfires to: El Rito Ranger Station at (575) 581-4554 or Carson Dispatch at (575) 758-6208 or (575) 758-6209.

If you have any questions, please contact the El Rito Ranger District office.